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HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

REGULATIONS

GOVERNING

Plumbing, House Drainage, and the Ventilation  
of House Sewers.

[ACT authorizing the employment of an Inspector of Plumbing in and  
for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be appointed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia an Inspector of Plumbing for said District, whose duty it shall be to inspect all houses in course of erection, and pass upon the plumbing and sewerage of said houses. And the Health Officer of the District of Columbia is hereby authorized, under direction of the Commissioners, to execute and enforce regulations governing plumbing, house drainage, and the ventilation of house sewers; and any person who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the requirements of the said regulations when promulgated shall be punishable by a fine of from twenty-five to two hundred dollars for each and every such offense, or in default of payment of fine to imprisonment for thirty days.*

Act authorizing appointment of Inspector and execution and enforcement of regulations.

Approved January 25, 1881.

In accordance with the foregoing act of Congress, and in pursuance of authority thereby conferred, the following regulations are made and promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned:

SECTION 1. These regulations governing plumbing, house drainage, and the ventilation of house sewers, shall take effect Regulations to take effect.

and be in force in the District of Columbia from and after June 15, 1881, and all work of the character named, placed in or upon any structure in the said District, shall be done in accordance with the provisions of the same.

*Duties of the Inspector of Plumbing.* SEC. 2. 1. It shall be the duty of the Inspector of Plumbing, under direction of the Health Officer, to sign and issue all notices and certificates, to keep a daily record of his work, including all notices and applications received, violations of these regulations noted, and all other matters which may pertain thereto; to make daily, weekly, and quarterly reports, and an annual report of his operations to the Health Officer.

*Houses to be inspected.* 2. He shall inspect all houses in course of erection, alteration, or repair, as often as may be necessary, and shall see that all plumbing, drainage, and sewerage work is done in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

*Oath to be taken and bond entered into.* 3. He shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation that he will faithfully perform the duties of his office, and shall, before entering upon its duties, execute a bond to the District of Columbia in the sum of five thousand dollars with three sureties, to be approved by the Commissioners, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of his office and for the benefit of all persons aggrieved by his acts or neglect.

*Plumbers to be registered.* SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of every person doing business as a plumber, or engaged in conducting plumbing or house drainage in the District of Columbia, to register his or her name in a book to be provided for that purpose at the Health Department, giving full name, residence, and place of business, and in case of removal from one place to another, in said District, to make change in said register accordingly.

*Plan of plumbing work to be filed at the Health Department.* SEC. 4. Before proceeding to lay or construct any portion of the drainage system of any house the plumber shall file with the Health Officer, for the Inspector of Plumbing, a plan thereof, showing the said drainage system entire, from its connection with the main sewer to terminus in house, together with the location of all branches, traps, ventilating pipes, &c.

SEC. 5. 1. Every soil, drain, or waste pipe, above ground, shall be of metal. All soil pipes above ground shall be of iron, with leaded joints, not less than three inches in diameter, and shall be extended, full size, through roof of house.

2. No soil or drain pipe shall be laid under the house, unless absolutely unavoidable; when necessary to lay a soil or drain pipe under house, said pipe shall be of iron, with leaded joints, and so located as to be accessible for inspection.

3. All soil, drain, waste, and supply pipes shall be concentrated as much as possible, protected from exposure, and shall be so located as to be readily accessible for inspection.

4. All "safes" under basins or refrigerators shall be drained by special pipes not directly connected with the sewer.

5. No rain-water leader shall be used either as a soil pipe or as a ventilator for sewer.

6. No brick or sheet metal flue shall be used as a sewer ventilator.

7. Rain-water leaders, when used in connection with any part of the drainage system of a house, shall be of iron with leaded joints.

8. All iron, soil, and sewer pipes shall be coated inside and out with coal tar pitch, asphalt, or some equivalent therefor, applied hot.

9. The weight of all iron pipe used shall be not less than:

For six-inch pipe,	pounds per lineal foot.			
For five-inch pipe,	"	"	"	"
For four-inch pipe,	"	"	"	"
For three-inch pipe,	"	"	"	"
For two-inch pipe,	"	"	"	"

10. All iron pipes before being concealed shall have openings stopped, and shall be filled with water and allowed to stand twenty-four hours for inspection.

SEC. 6. 1. No traps shall be placed on or at the foot of vertical soil pipes.

2. All water-closets, sinks, basins, wash-trays, &c., shall have suitable and approved traps placed as near as practicable to said fixtures.

Material of  
soil, drain, or  
waste pipes.

Soil and drain  
pipes not to be  
laid under  
house.

Pipes to be  
concentrated as  
much as possi-  
ble.

"Safes" to be  
drained by  
special pipes.

Rain-water  
leaders not to be  
used as soil  
pipes or venti-  
lators.

No brick or  
metal flue to be  
used as venti-  
lator.

Leaders to be  
of iron when  
used in connec-  
tion with drain-  
age system.

Iron pipes to  
be painted.

Weight of  
pipe to be used.

Iron pipes to  
be tested.

No traps on  
vertical soil  
pipes.

When traps  
shall be used.

*is sufficient*

Double trap  
on main drain.

3. A double trap shall be placed on every main drain at an accessible point.

Main drain to  
be ventilated.

SEC. 7. 1. Every main drain shall have an inlet for fresh air entering between the double trap and carried to such point on the outside of house as may be approved by the Inspector.

Ventilation of  
traps.

2. Each and every trap shall have a special vent pipe, of cast iron, extending either above roof of house or into soil pipe above highest fixture.

Size of vent  
pipes.

3. The vent pipe for each water-closet trap shall be not less than two inches in diameter, and for traps under other fixtures not less than one and one-half inches.

Manner in  
which sewers  
shall be laid.

SEC. 8. 1. All underground sewers shall be laid in trenches, cut at a uniform grade, and on a hydraulic concrete base of four inches thickness.

Fall pre-  
scribed.

2. All sewer pipes shall have a fall of at least one-half inch to the foot.

Changes in  
direction and  
branches.

3. They shall be laid in straight lines. All changes in direction shall be made with curved pipes and all connections with Y-branch pipes.

Connections of  
lead with iron  
pipes.

4. All connections of lead with iron pipes shall be made with brass thimbles, full size of iron pipe, and plumbers wiped joints.

Vaults, sinks,  
and cesspools  
not to be con-  
nected with the  
drainage sys-  
tem.

SEC. 9. 1. No vault, sink, cesspool, or dry-well shall be in any way connected with the drainage system of any house.

Overflow  
pipes to be  
trapped.

2. All overflow pipes from tanks and cisterns shall be provided with traps as required in section six.

Strainers to  
be used.

3. All pipes from sinks, wash-trays, &c., shall be provided with strong metallic strainers, the meshes not exceeding one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter.

Tanks or cis-  
ters to be used  
when necessary.

SEC. 10. 1. Where water supply is not ample for proper flushing of water-closets, &c., the Inspector of Plumbing may, in his discretion, order the erection of a tank or cistern into which water may flow at night, or into which it may be pumped.

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2. Cisterns or tanks erected for purposes described in the foregoing paragraph shall not have an overflow pipe connected with any drain, and water supply for domestic purposes shall not be drawn therefrom.

3. Means for thorough flushing of all soil pipes, drain pipes, and water-closets, shall be provided in every case.

SEC. 11. Sub-soil drains shall be provided wherever dampness of site of any proposed dwelling is known to exist.

SEC. 12. 1. The Health Officer shall be notified promptly, in writing, and upon blank forms to be provided for that purpose, when the plumbing work on any house is completed and ready for inspection.

2. The Health Officer shall direct the Inspector of Plumbing, immediately upon notification by the plumber, to proceed at once to inspect and pass upon the work, and all inspections shall be made promptly, not later than twenty-four hours after such notification.

3. No part of the plumbing work of any house shall be recovered, or in any manner hidden from view, until after such inspection has been made and a certificate of approval issued by the Inspector.

4. The Inspector shall promptly condemn and order removal of any defective material, or of any work done other than in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

SEC. 13. Prosecutions for infringement upon the provisions of these regulations shall be made by information filed in the Police Court of the District of Columbia.

Supply for domestic purposes not to be drawn from tank or cistern.

Thorough flushing to be secured.

Sub-soil drains to be provided for damp sites.

Notification to be given by plumbers.

Inspection to be made at once.

Work to remain exposed until after approval.

Work done not in accordance with the regulations to be condemned.

How prosecutions shall be instituted.





